

The Subject between Albanian and English Language



Linguistics

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Prof.ass.dr.Shkelqim Millaku

University of Prizren. Faculty of Education, Prizren. Republic of Kosova.

Abstract

The subject is the part of a clause that identifies the topic on the sentence. The subject usually in Albanian and English languages comes at the beginning of a clause and consists of a noun, noun phrase, pronoun etc. One of the topics which have most inspired comparative syntactic research is the difference between null subject languages such as Albanian and English: the former can have silent subject, technically called "subject – S". The subject is normally - noun phrase or nominal clause. In both of languages the subject normally occurs usually before the verb. The distinction between the subject and predicate is the basic division within the sentence. The subject can realize as noun, noun phrase, pronoun etc. It is the head of sentence. The noun in the sentence can have function and as predicate. In Albanian and English the predicate noun is used to predicate a description or identification of the subject. Both of languages the predicate noun is a noun that follows linking verb.

Introduction

The subject usually is in the beginning of the sentence and after is the verb or predicate. The subject requires the subjective form for pronouns that have distinctive case forms. In each of the following sentences, the part underlined of the subject e.g.

- a. Unë di. I know.
- b. Ky / Kjo nuk punon. This doesn't work.
- c. Ata mësuën. They learned.
- d. Everybody has left for the day.

The subject normally determines number of subject complement when that is a noun phrase.

Caroline is my sister.

Caroline and Vanessa are my sisters.⁹²

It is same and in Albanian language e.g.

Arta është motra ime.

Arta is my sister.

Arta and Nita janë motra.

Arta and Nita are sisters.

Teuta dëshiron të flet English.

Teuta wants to speak English.

⁹² Rodney Huddleston. (976). An Introduction to English transformation syntax. New York, p. 725.

Kush dëshiron të flet Anglisht.

Who wants to speak English?

The identity of the subject can be tested in an independent declarative clause through **who, what, which / kush, çka, cili** etc.

By those examples, we can consider (notices') for this phenomena "the subject" is the same with Albanian and English. The subject is topically the theme of the noun or noun phrases clause (see for more 7.1.10).

In the following, the subject and predicate components of the declarative sentence will be treated. The grammatical subject occupies the first place in the sentence pattern and agrees with the finite of the predicate in number and person, its case is basically the nominative:

Stufa ngroh dhomën. The oven heats the room.

Viewed semantically, if the subject is the author or originator of an action expressed by the predicate, it may stand in the Ablative:

Dhoma u ngroh prej stufës. The room is heated by the oven. Where dhoma "the room" is the grammatical subject.⁹³

The noun, (noun phrase) in Albanian and English can function as **Subject, (predicate), Direct Object, Indirect Objects, Objects of Prepositions, and Subject Complement**.

The distinction between **subject** and **predicate** is the basic division within the sentence. Grammarians have been aware of this distinction for millennia and in modern times a number of different graphic devices have been employed to capture this division. Early twentieth century school grammars drew a line between the subject and the predicate.⁹⁴

The subject is the **person, place, thing** or **idea** that the sentence is about. Or, in the case of a sentence with more than one clause, it is the **person, place, thing** or **idea** that the clause is about.

In Albanian and English the typically of subject is followed by a verb. In both of languages the subject can express with **noun, noun phrase, pronoun, number** etc. The typical case is nominal.

The subject express by the noun and pronoun e.g. (In the following examples, the subject is **bold** and the verb is underlined) e.g.

Avram Noam Çomsky lindi më 1928 në Pennsylvani, në një fshat hebrenjsh.⁹⁵

⁹³ Martin Camaj. 1984. Albanian Grammar. Wiesbaden, p. 235.

⁹⁴ Lynn Berk. (1999). English syntax. New York, p.11.

⁹⁵ Rami Memushaj. (2008). Gjuhësia gjenerative. Tiranë, p. 82.

John feels suddenly alone. **He** learns that **his** beloved mother as well as

Constance are dead and that **French** troops have landed in England.⁹⁶

Besa këndon mirë. “Mësuesi i vjetër vetëtimthi hetoi koleget e vet.

Njerëzit shpeshherë nuk e kuptojnë mirë të tashmen, pa pasur të qartë të kaluarën. Atje tej dëgjohej **hingëllimi** i dëshpëruar, i mallëngjyer i ngjirur i këputur i një kali. Ja sot po e ndiente **Shpresa** bukurinë e asaj kënge”.⁹⁷

Arta reads at her sister’s home.

The subject in Albanian and English is realized by **NP-s** which can be some other structure of simple and complex sentence e.g.

Gjatë gjithë rrugës kishte fryerë **era. (n)**

Ti je më e re se unë. (p)

Të vegjlit luanin me top. (Adj)

Një grau thërriset shokun.(NP)

The man ate the meat raw. (NP)

John lost his way. (N)

You win the game. (P)

Small businesses thrive in Italy towns. (NP)

A boy and a girl will play with him. (NP)

The children and **I** want to visit the library. (NP)

The subject in Albanian and English can be realized also by the introduction noun, noun phrase, pronoun, number etc. (that can be same with meaning of noun) (këta, këto, there) as such:

The subject can express with pronoun*.

⁹⁶ Leslie Dunton, Alan Riding. (2004). Essential Shakespeare handbook. London, p. 93.

⁹⁷ Mehmet Çeliku. (1996). Gramatika e gjuhës shqipe II. Tiranë, p. 167.

* The subject can express with pronoun, all the pronoun that have the noun meaning.

Ai që të do **ai** edhe të kritikon. “**Kjo** lloj lidhjeje bashkëreferimi apo jo bashkëreferimi mes emrave dhe përemrave të ndryshëm Brenda një fjalie, zakonisht tregohet duke përdorur një simbolizëm shumë të thjeshtë, atë të **treguesve të poshtëshënuar**”.⁹⁸

“**Ato** nuk mund të dalin të veçuar dhe e kanë vendin të ngulitura pra foljes. Dhe jo vetëm kaq, por, **ato** duhet të jenë ngjitur me foljen”.⁹⁹

It is same and in English language e.g.

We have seen that the first is surely inadequate for the purposes of grammar, and that the second is more powerful than the first, and do not fail in the same way”.¹⁰⁰ We have now found cases of sentence that are understood in more than one way and are ambiguously represented on the transformation level (thought not on other levels) and cases of sentences that are understood in a similar manner and are (...). This gives an independent justification and motivation for description of language in terms of transformation structure...¹⁰¹

There have been some students in the class.

There was a good film on TV last night.

I have been in **Wiena** and before visiting the library, **I** bought the map.

In Albanian and English its can be more than one subject in a sentence more than one subject in a single independent clause e.g.

John and **Arta** decided to follow the lecture.

Standardization is a special, possibly, the most important, type of language planning.¹⁰²

It is in number agreement with the predicator.

The boy plays football.

Djali luan futboll.

Teuta is in the kitchen.

Teuta është në kuzhinë.

There is a fly in **my** hamburger.

⁹⁸ Giorgio Graffi. (2003). Sintaksa, struktura e ligjërit, përkth. Blerta Topalli. Tiranë, p. 90.

⁹⁹ Josif Mita. (2005). Hyrje në gjuhësi gjenerative. Prishtinë, p. 117.

¹⁰⁰ Noam Chomsky. (2002). Syntactic Structure. New Your, p. 34.

¹⁰¹ Ibidem, p. 92.

¹⁰² H.G. Widdowson. (2003). Historical Linguistics. Oxford, p. 84.

Gjendet një mizë në hamburgerin tim.

Singular subject:

a. **Teuta** works.

b. Teuta punon.

Plural subject

c. **The men** work.

d. **Njerzit** punojnë.

Conjoined subject

e. **Agroni** and **Beni** work.

f. **Agroni** dhe **Beni** punojnë.

It is same in both of languages. In English also noted that the verb in the third person gets –s and in Albanian get suffix –n (works- punon).

We see the subject can realize as **noun, noun phrase, pronoun** etc. It is the head of sentence. The noun in the sentence can has function and as predicate.

In Albanian and English the predicate noun is used to predicate a description or identification of the subject. Both of languages the predicate noun is a noun that follows linking verb.

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